



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
South Texas Veterans
Health Care System

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kerrville VA begins COVID-19 vaccinations

[Kerrville] — The South Texas Veterans Health Care System, Kerrville VA Medical Center began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to frontline health care employees and Veterans residing in long-term care Community Living Centers today.

The South Texas Veterans Health Care System is part of the initial group of [37 VA medical centers across the country](#) that began receiving and administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine this week.

The sites were chosen for their ability to vaccinate large numbers of people and store the vaccines at extremely cold temperatures.

“The South Texas Veterans Health Care System is proud to be a part of the initial 37 VA medical centers receiving the vaccine,” said Christopher R. Sandles, Medical Center Director/CEO. “We are dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receiving care at Kerrville VA and our employees are ultimately offered the vaccine.”

The [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) stated that in clinical trials the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered as a series of 2 doses, 21 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

COVID-19 vaccine implementation will include an initial limited-supply phase followed by a general implementation phase, when large supplies of the vaccine will be available.

As increased vaccine supply becomes available, VA plans to distribute these vaccines at additional facilities to offer the vaccine to more Veterans and employees.

VA will report directly to the CDC data on all vaccine doses administered by VA. The department will also provide general, public updates on the number of people who receive the vaccination at these sites, similar to how VA posts COVID-19 testing figures.

Veterans seeking additional information can sign up to get updated information through VA's COVID-19 Vaccine [Keep Me Informed tool](#), visit the [VA Coronavirus Vaccine FAQs webpage](#), contact their care team, or visit their facility website.

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